



Memorandum

TO: City Council

FROM: Mayor Ron Gonzales

SUBJECT: Mayor's Gang Prevention Task
Force Strategic Work Plan,
Reclaiming Our Youth

DATE: April 4, 2005

Approved:

Date:

4/4/05

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force Strategic Work Plan 2005-2007, *Reclaiming Our Youth*.

BACKGROUND

San José is the Safest Big City in America. Keeping San Jose safe is the result of many factors, but chief among them is the successful community partnerships we have established over the years to address problems and identify solutions.

An excellent example is the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force that was created in 1991 to address the issues of community safety, specifically focusing on gang-involved youth. The task force represents a network of community leaders including law enforcement, parents, community service organizations, faith-based organizations, and schools. Working together, they have developed coordinated policies and programs that have become national models for effective gang prevention, intervention, and suppression.

Current trends indicate that the number of gang-related incidents in San José is relatively stable, but incidents have a higher level of violence associated with them. The MGPTF has recently updated its strategic work plan, *Reclaiming our Youth*, to reflect these current and projected community conditions. The plan was developed through an extensive collaboration involving our many partners, and was approved by the Task Force in January 2005.

The new work plan will be our community's road map to keep San José youth out of gangs and connected to their families, school, and community. This plan highlights how we can create an environment that helps our youth to succeed by combining the successful approaches we have used over the past fourteen years with new measures to use the full range of community resources.

I request approval of the strategic work plan by my colleagues.